

**Human Services Commission  
Minutes of the Meeting  
March 13, 2006**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting was called to order by chairman, Yale Cantor at 6:37 P.M.

**PRESENT:** Yale Cantor, Hassan Salley, Melinda Ferry, Sue Stack, Helen Filloramo, Sandi Orsini

**EXCUSED:** Cindy Heidari

**ABSENT:** Sharon Schall

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motioned ( S. Stack), Seconded ( H. Salley ) and passed by all those present to accept the minutes of February 13, 2006 meeting.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** The energy program for deliverable fuel end on Wednesday. Needless to say we have gone to the entire heating season without our computer up and running. The deadline for all other utility customers is Monday, April 17, 2006.

The Town of Ellington completed its part of the Dial-A-Ride grant last week. The funds will go to Hockanum Valley . The Town requested a match in the amount of \$21, 000.00.

Youth Services and Recreation will sponsor a Spring Fling on Thursday, April 20, 2006. The day will be devoted to games, and crafts for pre-K through 4<sup>th</sup> grade. A fee of \$5.00 per child is being charged. Other youth services programs include a mediation group for high school students on a variety of topics affecting teens and a new program called "uniquely Me" for middle school girls.

Elderly Outreach is exploring the possibility of a chore program for Ellington. This program uses teens to perform various tasks for seniors for a set fee. If this seems like a go for Ellington , we will apply to NCAAA for a grant. Other programs being looked at for Ellington include an emergency assistance program for household repairs not exceeding \$3000.00. The grants program manager, the first selectman, elderly outreach caseworker, and director will meet on Wednesday morning to discuss the guidelines for such a program.

The Human Services Director brought to the attention of the First Selectman and the Board of Finance Chairman, the issue of a tax relief program for Ellington's seniors.

**OLD BUSINESS:** UCONN will send us the raw data on disc from the survey rather than the 1500 surveys.

The 2007 Human Services budget is \$19,932 over the current budget. \$4,822 for senior center utilities and contractual services (\$3,700 electric & heat) + (\$151 taxes and \$971

for rent. Add \$2,485 for the health district, and staffing increase \$7,447 (\$2456 senior center+HSC \$4,991) Total: \$14,754. Part of the difference of \$5178 is in projected revenue for youth services (\$4000) .

The request for the HSC budget for 2007 is \$429,839. Motioned ( S.Orsini), Seconded ( H. Filloramo), and passed by all to accept the 2007 budget as presented.

The recommendation of the UCONN study was reviewed. The Commission is considering a proposal to present to the Board of Selectmen the following three phase plan: (1) to build new senior housing. The housing would be mixed housing consisting of assisted living and independent units, about 44-50 units. (2) build a new senior center adjacent to the new housing and (3) possibly the renovation of Snipsic Village. The Ellington Housing Authority would have to agree to become a part of this plan.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The Human Services Director, Elderly Outreach Caseworker and the Grants Program Manager attended a presentation by West Central Enterprises and Millennium Real Estate Services. They are the developers of Berry Patch in South Windsor. They would like to build low-moderate housing in Ellington for the elderly. The Town needs to be aware that such housing can put a drain on existing social services. There will be the need to increase the hours of the elderly outreach caseworker or hire additional staff to assist the present worker.

The Commission liaison, Dennis Frawley from the Board of Selectmen, Fran VanTreese, Community Development/Grants Program Manager, and the liaison from the Board of Finance or the Finance Officer be invited to the April meeting to discuss the proposed plan of action for new elderly housing and a senior center.

Motioned ( M. Ferry), Seconded (S. Stack) and passed by all present to send a formal thank you to Cindy Gruman and staff for a great job on the survey and presentation.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motioned ( H. Salley), Seconded ( S. Orsini) and passed by all those present to adjourn at 7:30 P.M.

Submitted by,

  
Doris R. Crayton, Director  
Human Services Director